

THE **MONROE LEFT**

OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA



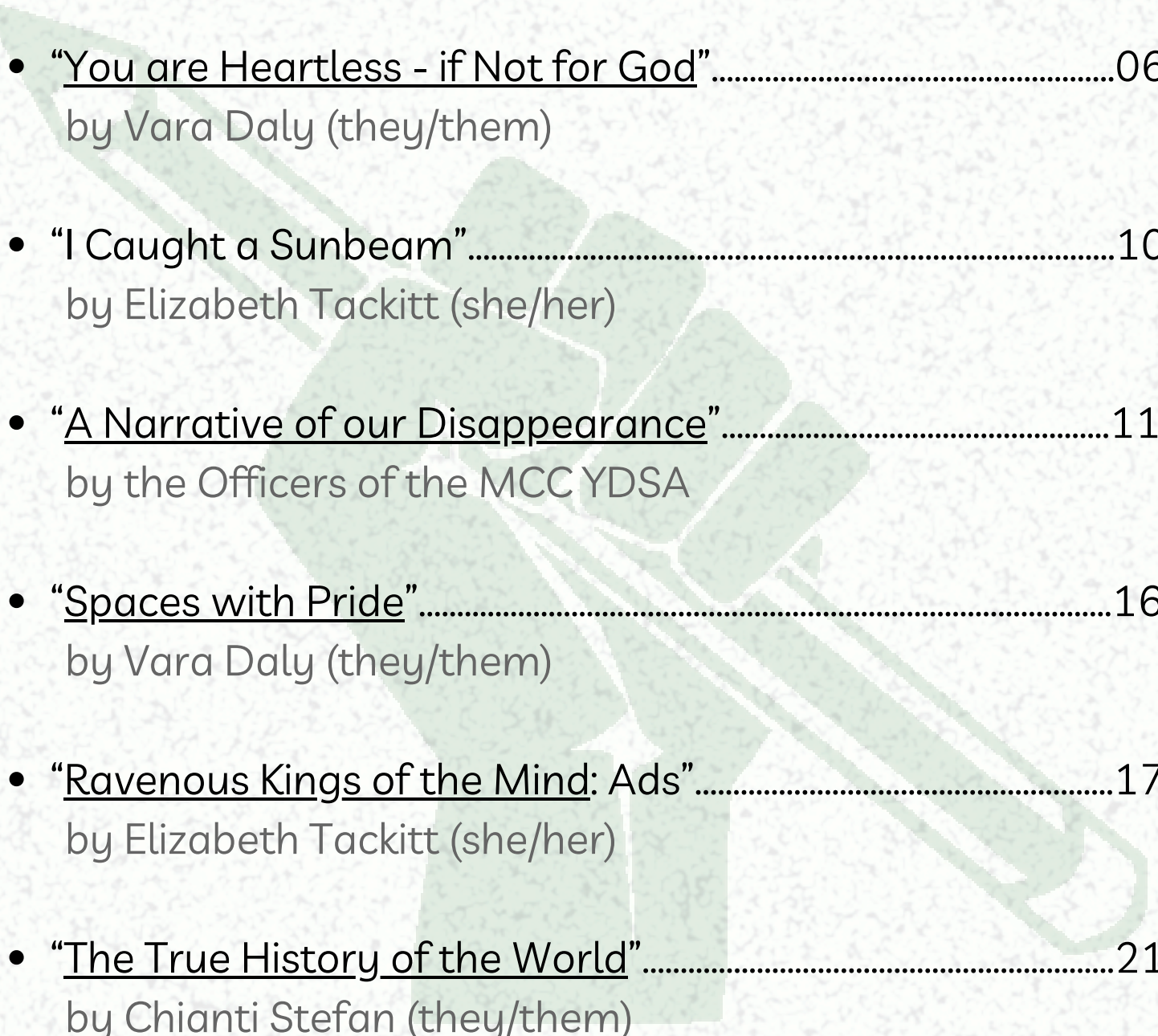
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WHY THE MONROE LEFT?

The Monroe Left is a political, partisan and entirely student-driven publication from MCC written in the hopes of sharing the art, experiences and ideas of students, alumni, faculty and staff in favor of a leftist, progressive and brighter tomorrow.



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Foreword

by Elizabeth Tackitt (she/her)

IT was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. A student, their lapel buttoned against their chest to block the unseasonable Rochester winds, slipped through the doors of Building 12, rushing past the theater block to class. What was there to be done but focus? They were running late.

The smell of campus was always mostly sterile, but today it was the moisture in the air which was inescapable. As rain poured from on high, one can't help but think it is the world who mourns us. Can the world care so deeply about a nation gone mad? Tugging on a locked door reveals an absence of classroom chatter. No class today. The student sighs - a world in terror, but everyone walks on. What was there to be done?

Not brave enough themselves, the student is in search of those who are. "Propaganda" in a time of crisis is only a word, something necessary to rouse the world into action. Things would be made right - but we must make them right. Propaganda was already tucked into the student's bag, marching orders within. The pages which follow are those works which fan the flame of revolution. Even these sterile halls will stop smelling of rain one day.



You are Heartless - if Not for God

by Vara Daly (they/them)

IT was a shocking revelation that encouraged my own research that there are Americans that believe a human's morality is based on the primary religion introduced to them... This could not be further from the truth. According to 2022 PEW Research¹ data compiled from unaffiliated and various Christian denominations across the top ten most 'developed' nations roughly 65% of Americans (an 11% increase since a 2019 study²) do not believe in a direct connection between a belief in God and one's morality. Sweden, a country mostly of Christians, has this number at 90%. This trend of countries with a notable quality of life containing some of the highest percentages of those that do not believe this correlation is instead a sign of morality beyond religion. Understanding that man can muster ideas beyond a holy book does not require opinions from the highest GDP countries, instead, we can look at what I believe is the most telling example of how man has adopted morality without a holy book – The acceptance and later abolishment of slavery.

"22 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 - since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:22-24"

It goes without saying that slavery is something condemned by most people. It also goes without saying that this was not the case prior to the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865 following a certain war about this very topic. These events would occur in the most recent empires perpetuating the Atlantic slave trade, who were Christian. Those Christians of yesteryear followed the same books as the typical Christian of today – so why no more slavery?

Though one may first think the teachings of Christ and Paul possibly denouncing this archaic way of thought coming from the Old Testament... But not once is this idea of one person having ownership over another person ever condemned outright. Maintaining an internal peace between a slave and their master was instead taught, “18 - *Slaves, be subject to your masters with all respect,^[a] not only those who are good and gentle but also those who are dishonest. 19 - for it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly,*” (Peter 2:18-19).





Lines like these certainly do not breed confidence that religion, or Christianity, directly contributed to the ideals of those original American abolitionists. I choose to believe, not just through some empirical tool I need from an ancient book, that more is at play in the moral codes of an individual given the biblical examples that challenge modern Christian morality.

*“A man's ethical behaviour should be based effectually on sympathy, education, and social ties and needs; no religious basis is necessary. Man would indeed be in a poor way if he had to be restrained by fear of punishment and hope of reward after death.” – **Albert Einstein***

1. Fetterolf, Janell. “Many People in U.S., Other Advanced Economies Say It’s Not Necessary to Believe in God to Be Moral.” Pew Research Center, Pew Research Center, 20 Apr. 2023, www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/20/many-people-in-u-s-other-advanced-economies-say-its-not-necessary-to-believe-in-god-to-be-moral/.
2. Tamir, Christine. “The Global God Divide.” Pew Research Center, Pew Research Center, 20 July 2020, www.pewresearch.org/religion/2020/07/20/the-global-god-divide/.
3. Einstein, Albert. Ideas and Opinions, 3rd ed., Crown, New York City, New York, p. 31.

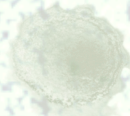
I CAUGHT A SUNBEAM

by Elizabeth Tackitt (she/her)

I wish to be a whisper,
falling through the wind
I'll toss through the sunlight
'till my voice is thinned
I'll catch up a sunbeam
and share it for some
I'll take it back home, and
share it with my loving one

When I've kept it for me
and a new couple loves
And when I've spent some time
bringing months to their ends,
I might come to see you
and my sunbeam might, too
so maybe this time, I'd
shine a little bit like you!

But now, I'm too tired
and I'd like you to know.
I might bring my sunbeam
again... but tomorrow.





A Narrative of our Disappearance

by the Officers of the MCC YDSA

IS this truly the Land of the Free? We find comparing these United States with the performance of others' nations enlightening in seeing that in those places where progressive politics have a say in government, progress seems so simple as voting and joining your local union. In America, those controlling forces which endeavor to represent us decide to shoot first, then ask questions later as anything which involves due process and rationality seems worth too much of their time and effort. Sooner or later, all your favorite places will arm their entire security with old men, guns bigger than themselves, just waiting for someone to slip up – and all this to perpetuate the same old violent system.

“..these are the actions of a college

Even as the presence of firearms in our society already hastens with the normalization of their presence in public, these guns and their endless issues are only worsened when these powers decide to arm officials to the teeth in places where we should feel safe, turning schools into veritable police states. Should innocent students have to feel as if they risk their lives just to go to school, hopeful that so-called “public safety” will find students in their favor that particular day? Officers which threaten black and queer students the most as a matter of statistical fact? Is that a question you really need answered?

Apparently, those of us who endeavor to arm public officers with even more guns still persist, even today. Monroe Community College has armed its public safety officers with “long guns” in the style of AR-15 platform rifles, an action taken in Summer 2024 as a measure to crack down on terrorizers and student protestors alike. These protestors still see endless barriers to their freedom of speech on top of this gun purchase, these speech restrictions remaining an incredibly, unfortunately pressing issue that affects every college in America – even our state-funded institution.



who we KNOW can do better!”

MCC’s chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America had been punished for hosting peaceful protests on two different occasions against the college’s arming of public safety officers with these long guns, with some being viciously charged for so-called disruptive activities and insisting that some even insulted public safety officers to their faces. We have not been able to independently verify these claims.

Regardless, these are the actions of a college which we know can do better, and with whom the MCC YDSA has worked tirelessly to restore the club's former positions in student government.



After leading one march through MCC's main hallways in February 2024 to protest the long guns decision and the college's apparent lack of transparency regarding the decision, the club was suspended from charter and forbidden from hosting activities until the following semester. After the involved protestors were cited by administration for their involvement, the purchases went into effect. A secondary silent protest with signs occurred on the Terrace through early March, this protest being the last. After a summer and beginning semester without being on charter, MCC YDSA returned to official activities after regaining our charter in September, and we soldier on to this day in hopes of regaining our numbers someday.

Our organization remains firmly against the college's policy to arm their public safety officers with long guns, and we strive to achieve a world where MCC is free from their police state, as we are confident MCC's administration will someday work alongside us to create. But for now, we build... as communists, we are in fact "the specter which haunts" this institution. But this specter is alive, and we are ready to continue the fight! Solidarity with all students and their freedoms, solidarity FOREVER!



SPACES WITH PRIDE

by Vara Daly (they/them)

For the first dozen years I was put in spaces,
These spaces, devoid of color, I did not enjoy.
All those years, thinking I knew what my face is,
A frustrated killjoy.

Blind to my identity, I continued to be hollowed.
Until flashes of new colors are seen from afar.
Curious and questioning how many there are,
Stepping out of my space, my anxiety is swallowed.

A new space was blended, highlighted, and splattered
with color.

As my face is reflected in splatters, relief overcame me,
I had been far too acquainted with the duller.
Why had I been such an absentee?





SOURCE: ADBUSTERS MAGAZINE

Ravenous Kings of the Mind: Ads

by Elizabeth Tackitt (she/her)



WHAT, to the leftist, is the capitalist advertisement? Advertisements can be thought of as the most “id” of wants. Advertisements under capitalism do not make you “want” their product, they do not make you need their product. You ultimately don’t want to spend your hard-earned money on things that you don’t need because, contrary to the capitalist’s opinion, leftists (and people as a concept) do not gain the want for an item after the presentation of said item alone. Money is too scarce, of course people consider and ultimately accept the idea that they must save money to survive. The average person should only desire to spend their money on essential goods for means of survival and occasional entertainment, and otherwise to avoid the capitalist business class. Because of this, the capitalist advertisement desires to add a “want” in you that is not logical, and therefore fundamentally fascist in its rejection of logic and contradictory to the proletariat’s goals.

When the leftist purchases a capitalist item via this horrid advertisement, they fall subservient to the modern-day equivalent of a serfdom. The leftist knows they do not want and do not need these items, they do not want to support the capitalist business in their purchase. However they “must” or they feel they must, because this advertisement has activated an animalistic “id” want in the leftist and the general person. To combat this, we must advocate for the removal of every advertisement from the average person’s senses, this through the normalization of ad-blocking software and eventually a cultural shaming of advertisements in general life at all.

Does this mean I desire to change, for example, Times Square -- the most famous town square in the United States -- to a screenless, boring intersection? Perhaps this might be an aesthetic improvement, but I do not desire to change the ultimate purpose of the place - I desire to turn it into a more honest and genuine center of trade, as all places should be. This location should be thriving with people, brotherhood, alliance and proletariat wants and needs! Not the malicious brainwashing advertisements set up by the capitalist class! The advertisement is the capitalist’s attempt to invade your mind and replace your mind with that of the bourgeois owner.

You should feel offended every time a capitalist shoves an advertisement in your unwilling face and ears for fear of replacing what's true, honest, and most important to you with a craving for their useless items. Feel deeply, horrifyingly offended that they desire to change the very makeup of your mind and soul and replace what's dear to you with drivel, disgusting nonsense that they have created in order to enslave you to their desire for more, more, more! Fear and treat with seriousness the capitalist's mind control attempts, and battle them at every occasion. They fight and bid for the time of your very life, leftist! Break free - save money - engage in mutual aid with Rochester Mutual Aid Network and in the mean time, bust some ads!





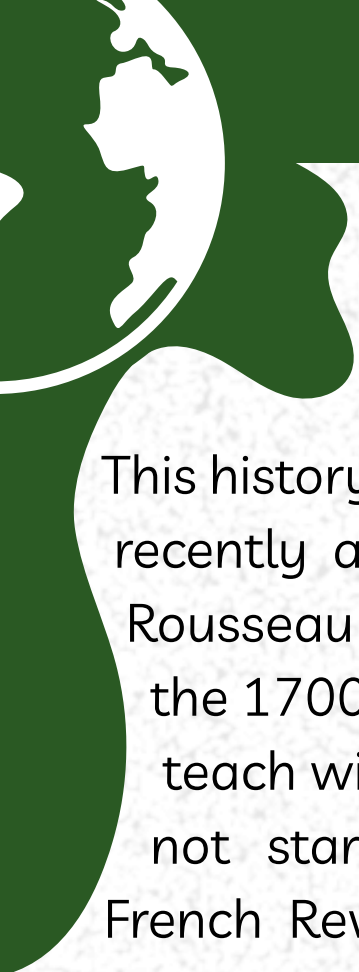
The True History of the World

by Chianti Stefan (they/them)

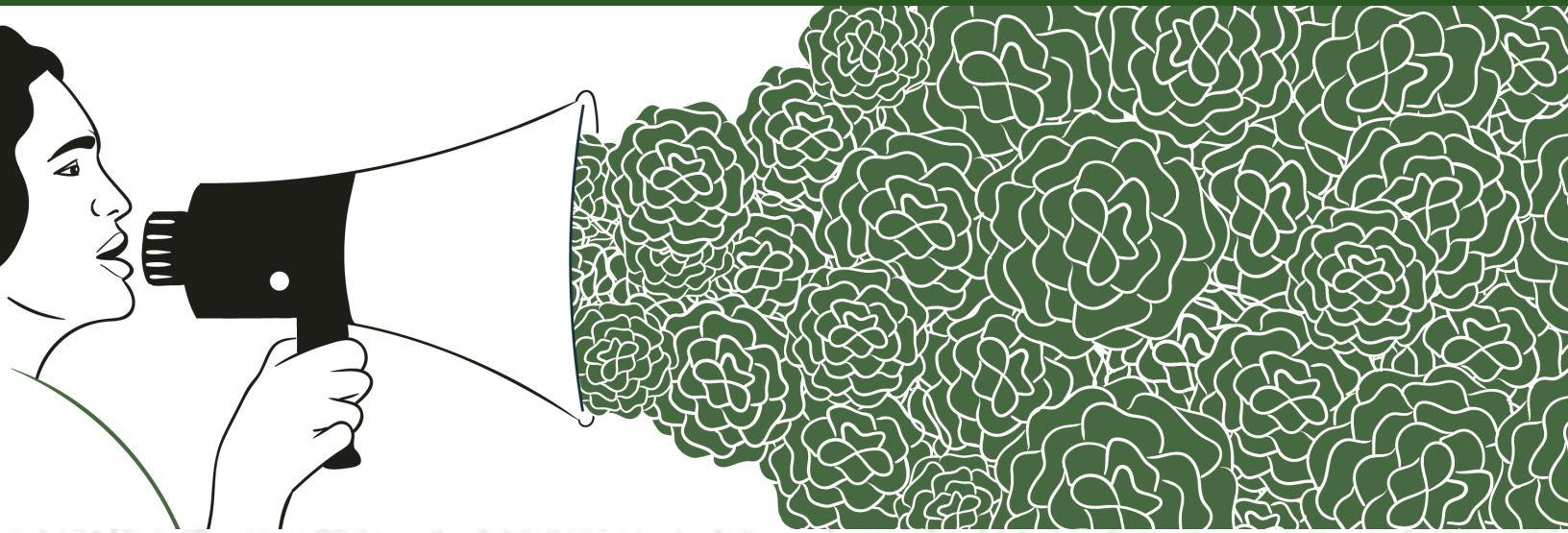


ACCORDING to the Western conquerors who rule over our Earth, the history of the world goes as follows: After an unthinkably long age where humans lived freely in communes, civilization sprung out of a single innovation. Subsisting off of berries, nuts, game, and water, prehistoric peoples were so engaged in day-to-day survival that they had no time to develop civilizations. When the first seeds were sown in the soil we finally reaped so much food that we could plan for tomorrow, but someone needed to do this planning and someone else needed to do the planting. Out of this codependent relationship, hierarchy emerged, as the people who did the planning created castles, armies, laws, even cults with all that the planters harvested. Empires rose and hoarded more and more resources, developing technology that advanced exponentially. We now live at the head of this progress, more enlightened and rich than every era before us, only to become more enlightened and rich in the future ahead of us.





This history, that digs millenia back in time, emerged only as recently as 18th century colonialism. When Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote "Second Discourse" "The Social Contract" in the 1700s, he speculated on this prehistory, that we still teach without evidence. While the myth that he told did not start with his pen, his conclusions inspired the French Revolution and the Liberal order we live under today. Why did Europeans (who believed "prehistory" was blasphemy) suddenly become obsessed with the idea of the social contract, the origin of inequality, and the arc of history towards progress? It's no coincidence that the invention of this prehistory came at the same time as Europeans came face-to-face with Indigenous egalitarians, from the Haudenosaunee down to the Tlaxcalteca, who mocked their invaders for being unfree and unequal. Yes, Rousseau admits, we toil in fields and serve kings, but that must be the contract we sign to have Western civilization. The noble savages in America live in archaic utopias, but when they begin planting, they will need leaders, bureaucrats, and capitalists to do all the planning. All societies are forced to make this sacrifice eventually, and at the end of this progress are civilizations that look like ours.

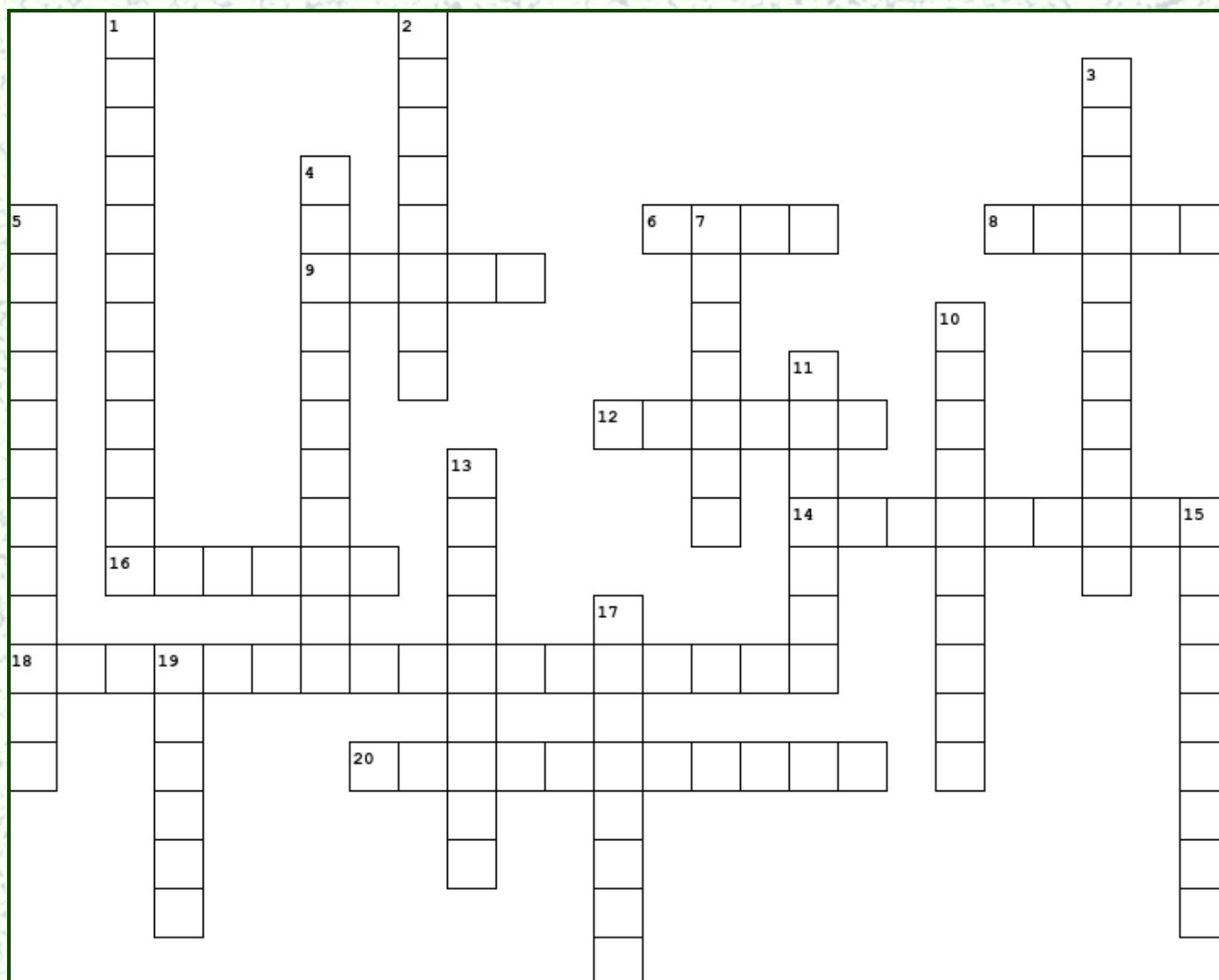


It becomes obvious that this history only serves the colonizers who propagate it, disregarding indigenous achievements as archaic, and bluffing that Western authoritarianism comes inevitably. For everyone other than these victors, the true history of the world remains about an apocalypse. All around us, in our backyard, our flora, our fauna, our language, in our very facial features are the ruins of a society that looks completely alien to the one we live in now. The memories of our history are buried deep, under the slavery and destruction still perpetuated by “civilization”. Their technology, that should make living easier, are the instruments of our exploitation. Even many white people are now losing their hope in progress, as everyone but a small class of capitalists becomes poorer. We ignore science. We lose democracy. Threats of nuclear war and environmental disaster loom over our heads. To the myths that indoctrinate us, there was never any alternative to this.



The problem with Rousseau's history is simple: it starts after 99% of history had already passed. The grand arc of progress that liberals lead starts to look like a momentary stumble in comparison; like the "untouchable" divine right of kings also blinked in and out of existence. Even Karl Marx's retelling of class struggle cannot contain the vast ocean of time that he calls "primitive communism", where we have found nations without thrones, cities without police, gardens rising without masters to harvest them. Here, we begin decolonization: the process of retrieving our lost histories. Out of an empire that taught us that it was inevitable, we retrieve the potential for things to be different.

Lovely Leftist Crossword! April 2025



across

6. Author of the Communist Manifesto
8. Labor Theory of...?
9. "Workers of the world, ____!"
12. Food pantry at MCC
14. Anarchist principle of aiding fellow community members
16. Rochester branch of Democratic Socialists of America
18. The sociological act of analyzing the ways in which identities overlap
20. Describes someone whose gender does not align with their assigned sex

down

1. Black power and communist organization
2. Person who believes in women's rights
3. The working class
4. The owning class
5. Rochester-based advocates for public power
7. "From each according to their ____"
10. "Seize the means of ____"
11. Author of Manufacturing Consent
13. Genders which fall outside of gender binary
15. Governance involving people power & voting
17. Leninist political party which ideologically leads the working class
19. Other author of the Communist Manifesto

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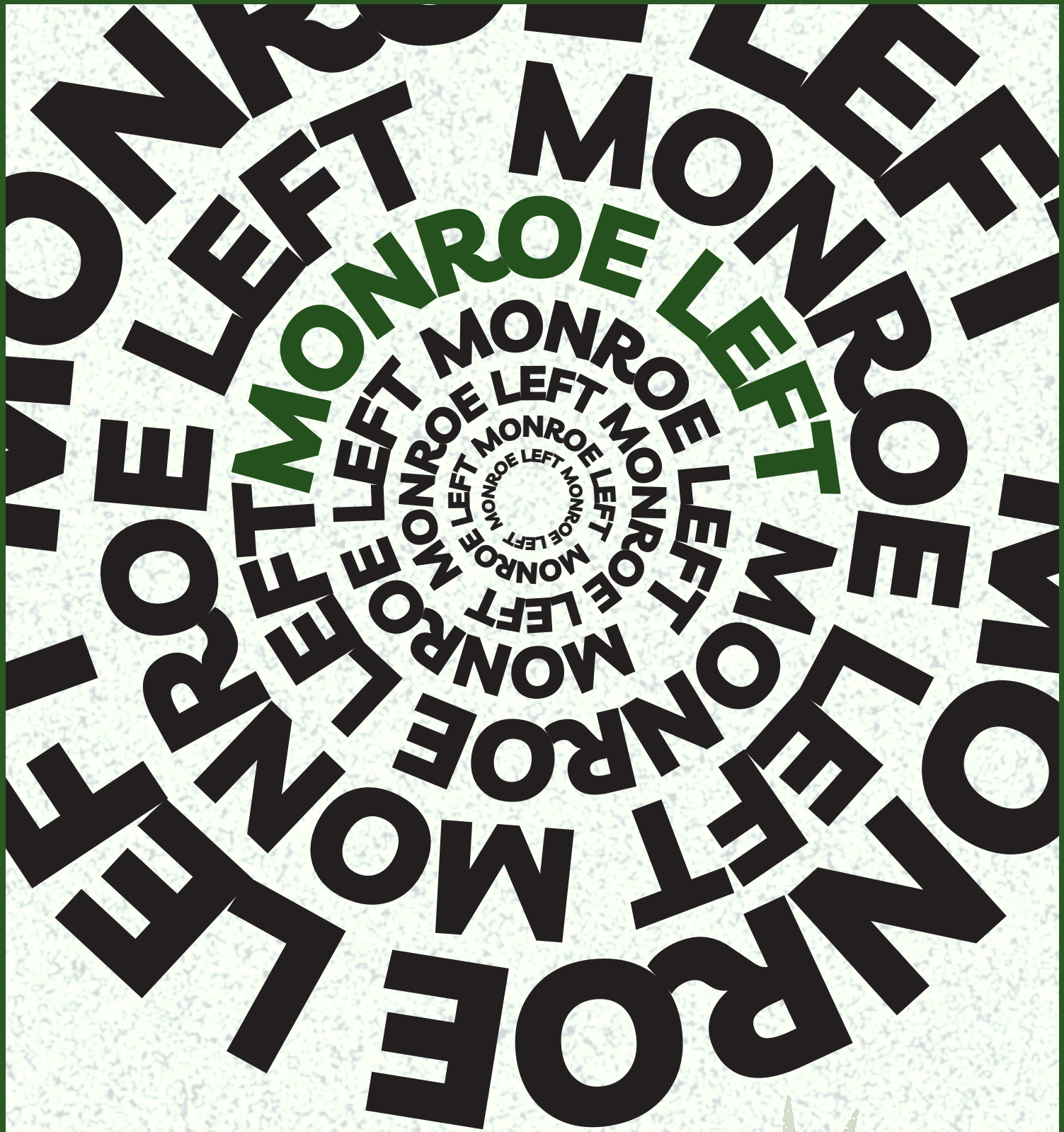
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of the world... and *YOU!*

Join our Discord
to contribute to
our next series!





Student Life &
Leadership Development
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